

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN
CITY OF NEWPORT, TENNESSEE
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**

September 9, 2014

The City of Newport Board of Mayor and Aldermen met in the Newport City Hall Council Chambers on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 5:45 p.m. in Regular Session.

Rev. Alvin Watts led the invocation. Chief of Police Maurice Shults led the Pledge to the Flag.

The following officials were present: Mayor Connie Ball, Vice Mayor Bill Costner, Alderman John Bugg, Alderman Freddie Gregg, Alderman Kenny Morgan, City Attorney Terry Hurst, and City Administrator James Finchum.

The following officials were not present: Alderwoman Kathy Holt.

Mayor Ball declared a Quorum.

City Attorney Terry Hurst stated he wanted to address an issue concerning Alderwoman Kathy Holt being eligible to serve on City Council. Considering she was not at the meeting Mr. Hurst didn't feel comfortable talking about this until Ms. Holt was present. Mr. Hurst asked Mayor Ball if he could wait to address this issue before the regular business to give Ms. Holt time to come in if she is running late.

Minutes

August 12, 2014 Regular Session

Motion by Alderman Bugg and second by Alderman Gregg for minutes of the August 12, 2014 Regular Session to be approved as submitted.

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Proclamations and or Recognition of Citizens by the Mayor

Chief of Police presented Detective Jason Ramsey with the employee of the month for the month of September with a plaque and \$50.00. Chief Shults spoke of how through the adjustments of the police department Detective Ramsey has worked all three detective work loads and also trained.

Communications from the City Administrator

City Administrator James Finchum reported TDOT has postponed the downtown paving until spring of 2015. TDOT will patch the intersections. The roads will not be totally repaired until spring. Mayor Ball added he had spoke with TDOT about downtown. The 2 new red lights are in progress of being completed. Also, there is safety money for sensors to be put on the poles instead of in the loops. The replacements of the loops are \$2,500.

Mayor Ball gave a hand out to each Board member on the salary raise agreement for Interim City Administrator James Finchum. Mayor Ball stated Mr. Finchum's salary will increase to \$72,000 annually. The last City Administrator's salary was \$75,000. Alderman Morgan asked if there was money in the budget for this pay increase. Mr. Finchum stated there was money but there would be the need of a budget amendment.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Bugg to suspend the rules to add the salary raise for Interim City Administrator James Finchum to the agenda.

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Vice Mayor Costner to approve the salary raise for Interim City Administrator James Finchum in the amount of \$72,000 annually.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	Yes
Alderman Morgan	Yes
Alderman Gregg	Yes
Vice Mayor Costner	Yes

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Mr. Finchum thanked the Board for the raise. Mr. Finchum stated he didn't ask for the raise but he was very grateful. Mayor Ball thanked Mr. Finchum for the great job he has done for the City in straightening up the finance problems that should have never got that way.

Appointment of Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Reports from Committees, Members of Council, & Other Officers

Roland Dykes III on the Tanner Preservation Alliance reported of progress.

Old Business

New Business

City Attorney Hurst stated the Election Commission voted Alderwoman Kathy Holt cannot run for election due to her residency issue. Ms. Holt listed her county resident as where she resides when she was arrested in July 2014. Also, in August 2014 Ms. Holt listed her county resident as where she resides in her order of protection against her husband. The order of protection was sworn to under oath by Ms. Holt that she resides at her county residents on Hemlock Road. MTAS recommendation was that this Board could declare this position vacant with a vote. If Ms. Holt stays on the Board until the end of her term she would be considered a de facto member. The courts could ratify any action or votes in the future if the Board knowingly had information that she lived in the county. The options given by Mr. Hurst were the Board could take action to vacate Ms. Holt's seat, Ms. Holt could resign or the courts could remove her.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Bugg to suspend the rules to add addressing the issue of Alderwoman Holt's ability to serve as City Council to the agenda.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	Yes
Alderman Morgan	Yes
Alderman Gregg	Yes
Vice Mayor Costner	Yes

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Alderman Gregg asked if Ms. Holt was aware of this issue. Mr. Hurst stated, "no, she was not aware of this issue." Mr. Hurst stated he had not discussed this with anyone. Mr. Hurst stated he didn't know why Ms. Holt was not at the meeting.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Bugg to declare Kathy Holt’s seat vacant based on the fact she is not a resident of the City of Newport.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	Yes
Alderman Morgan	Yes
Alderman Gregg	Pass
Vice Mayor Costner	Yes

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed 3-0 and approved.

Alderman Gregg stated he thought Ms. Holt should be here or to know before the Board made their decision. Vice Mayor Costner stated he agreed with Alderman Gregg but he would go with the Election Commission decision.

Mr. Hurst stated the position is vacant. What action does the Board want to take to fill it? Alderman Gregg stated the Board doesn’t have time to fill it before the end of the term. Mayor Ball asked the Board to think about what they would like to do to discuss this at a workshop or the next meeting. Mayor Ball asked City Attorney Hurst to notify Ms. Holt in writing of the actions taken to vacate Ms. Holt’s seat.

Resolution #2014-11 Recycling Equipment Grant 2014-2015

Consideration of approval of Resolution #2014-11 authorizing the City of Newport to apply for 2014-2015 Recycling Equipment Grant not to exceed \$25,000 for the purchase of containers. The City of Newport will commit to provide matching funds in the amount of \$5,000. This is an 80% - 20% grant.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Alderman Gregg to approve Resolution #2014-11 authorizing the City of Newport to apply for 2014-2015 Recycling Equipment Grant not to exceed \$25,000 for the purchase of containers.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	Yes
Alderman Morgan	Yes
Alderman Gregg	Yes
Vice Mayor Costner	Yes

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Consideration of Providing Sewer for Roger Greene on Amanda Circle

Consideration of approval of providing sewer for Roger Greene on 565 Amanda Circle. The cost for the City to provide the sewer hookup is in the amount of \$10,700 from the sewer fund at Newport Utilities. Mr. Greene will have the pay \$1,235 for hookup to Newport Utilities. Per Carol Profitt statement, if Mr. Greene refuses to pay the City is “off the hook.” The City will notify Mr. Greene.

Motion was made by Alderman Gregg and second by Vice Mayor Costner to approve providing sewer for Roger Greene on 565 Amanda Circle.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	Yes
Alderman Morgan	Yes
Alderman Gregg	Yes
Vice Mayor Costner	Yes

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Consent Agenda

Consideration of approval of the Consent agenda for the following:

- a) Roadblock – Cocke County Band Booster – 11/8/2014
- b) Roadblock – Long Creek VFD – 10/18/2014

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Costner and second by Alderman Bugg to approve the Consent Agenda.

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Bids, Purchases, and Expenses

Engineering Services for Safe Routes to School Phase I

Consideration of bids for engineering services for Safe Routes to School Phase I. Robert Campbell & Associates were the only engineering service to bid.

Motion was made by Alderman Morgan and second by Vice Mayor Costner to accept the bid from Robert Campbell & Associates for the engineering services for Safe Routes for School Phase I.

Roll Call

Alderman Bugg	AYE
Alderman Morgan	AYE
Alderman Gregg	AYE
Vice Mayor Costner	AYE

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Citizens Comments

April Clevenger read a prepared letter to the Board and City Administrator James Finchum over the confusion of the questions she had asked at the previous meeting.

Joan Lambert stated there was a problem with hearing the Board at the meetings. People in the back of the room can't hear what is going on. Carlene Robinson suggested moving the mics closer.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Mayor & Alderman, **a motion was made by Alderman Bugg, and second by Alderman Gregg to adjourn.**

All Ayes- Mayor Ball declared the motion passed and approved.

Mayor Connie Ball

James Finchum, City Administrator

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